

**REMARKS**

**I. Status Of The Application.**

Claims 1-30 of the original application are pending. In the Second Office Action, the Examiner:

- (a) Required correction of the Abstract so that it was limited to 150 words;
- (b) Rejected claims 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention;
- (c) Rejected claims 1-4, 7-19, 21-25, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Linton, U.S. 6,282,404 B1 ("Linton");
- (d) Rejected claims 5-6, 20, 26, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Linton in view of Papadopolous, U.S. 6,099,320 ("Papadopoulos"); and
- (e) Rejected claims 18 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Linton in view of Sonnenfeld, U.S. 6,112,049 ("Sonnenfeld").

In this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 17, 18, 22 – 25, and 28 to further clarify the invention claimed. Further, Applicants have amended the Abstract of the specification in order to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b). No new matter was introduced by way of any of these amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments and following remarks incorporated herein overcome the Examiner's rejections to claims 1-30 and respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims 1-30 in view of these amendments and remarks.

**II. The Examiner's Objection To The Abstract Should Be Withdrawn.**

In the Office Action, the Examiner required that the Abstract be corrected so that it meets the 150 word limit imposed by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b). In accordance with this requirement, the Applicants have deleted the original Abstract from the Application and replaced it with an Abstract that is less than 150 words. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the replacement Abstract be added to the Application and the objection be withdrawn.

**III. The Examiner's Rejection Of Claims 25 And 28 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, Should Be Withdrawn.**

In the Second Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 25 and 28 as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner determined that it was unclear what the term "immediately" means. Applicants intend for "immediately" to have its normal definition. For example, the term immediately has been defined to mean "*adv.* 1. Without delay. 2. With no intermediary; directly. – *conj.* As soon as; directly." THE AMERICAN HERITAGE COLLEGE DICTIONARY (3d. ed. 2000). Thus, in the context of claims 25 and 28, the term immediately means that the generation of the completion record occurs automatically and without delay upon the completion of the lesson. In other words, the completion record is instantly generated once a student completes the lesson.

By informing the Examiner that Applicants intend for the term "immediately" to have its normal meaning, Applicants respectfully submit that they have overcome the rejection of claims 25 and 28. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

**IV. The Amendments To Claims 1, 17, 18, 22-25 And 28 Are Supported By The Specification.**

Applicants have amended claims 1, 17, 18, 22-25, and 28 to further clarify that the presentation of the at least one lesson is controlled by at least one audio and/or at least one video file so that a student cannot advance in the lesson until the audio and/or video file has completed playing. In this manner, the present invention guarantees that a student will spend a required amount of time on a lesson. Support for the amended claims is provided in the application as filed. Specifically, the specification discloses that "A student will not be able to logout using LOGOUT button 70 or to advance to the next screen/page using right arrow button 74 until the at least one audio file for that screen/page has completed playing at student system 30." (Present Invention, p. 18, lns. 7-9). Further, it provides that "for a student to proceed in order through the screens of Figs. 6A-6F, the screen of Fig. 6A is displayed and the audio file reading first text portion 80 is played to completion. After a complete playing of the audio file . . . the student may activate right arrow button 74 on Fig. 6A to proceed to Fig. 6B." (p. 18, lns. 19-22). Similarly, the specification provides "in the embodiment where video controlling is used to control pace and advancement of the lesson, a student is unable to logout using LOGOUT button 70 or to advance to the next screen using right arrow button 74 until the video file(s) associated with that screen/page has completely played at student system 30." (p. 23, lns. 14-17). Moreover, the specification provides "by use of the audio and/or video controlling mechanism of the present invention, the system provides a means by which the student is required to "attend" the lesson for a specified period of time. In particular, the student must "attend" the class for a time at least equal to the time required to play the audio file(s) and/or video file(s) associated with the lesson." (p. 24, 3-7).

V. **The Rejection Of Claims 1-4, 7-19, 21-25, And 27-29 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) As Being Anticipated by Linton Should Be Withdrawn.**

In the Second Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-19, 21-25 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Linton. Applicants believe they have overcome the rejection of claims 1-4, 7-19, 21-25, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that Linton does not anticipate the present invention under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) because Linton does not disclose all of the elements of claims 1-4, 7-19, 21-25 and 27-29, as amended. A rejection under 102(e) can be overcome by showing that the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from the prior art. MPEP 706.02(b).

A) **Independent Claims 1, 17 And 22-24 Are Patentably Distinguishable From Linton.**

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably distinguishable because Linton does not disclose all of the elements of independent claims 1, 17, and 22-24, as amended.

1. **The Present Invention**

Traditional online education systems and methods have the problem of not being able to prevent students from going through a lesson at their own pace. As a result, students can skip portions of the lesson or the entire lesson if the student so chooses. Thus, instructors or an education authority that utilize these traditional online education systems cannot ensure that the students spends the required amount of time on a lesson. The present invention provides for an improved system and method for online education that ensures that a student **will spend the required amount of time on a lesson**. The present invention includes an educator provider

system, at least one student system, and a network connected to the educator provider system and the at least one student system to allow for a lesson to be transmitted from the educator provider to the student system. The present invention utilizes an audio or video file to control the pace and duration of the presentation of the lesson transmitted to the at least one student system. In either of these embodiments, **a student is not allowed to advance in the lesson until the video file or audio file has completed playing.**

2. Linton Does Not Disclose All Of The Elements Of Independent Claims 1, 17, and 22-24.

Linton **does not disclose the use of an audio file or a video file to control the pace of** the presentation of a lesson. The Examiner cited two sections of Linton in support of the assertion that Linton discloses the use of an audio file and a video file to control the pace of the presentation of the lesson. First, the Examiner cites the following language:

The instructional materials are down loaded via video server 206 in multimedia form that include streaming or broadcasting video as well as video, audio, and text portions. A streaming video program is utilized as a plug-in to the web browser to allow viewing of the streaming video portion of the instructional segment. Examples of functional streaming video applets include RealPlayer™ provided by RealNetworks, as well other streaming video products such as Window Media Player provided by MicroSoft, Inc. and Quick Time Player, provided by Apple Corporation.

(Linton, Col. 6; Lns. 5-15). Applicants respectfully submit that while this section does state that instructional materials, including streaming or broadcasting video as well as video, audio and text portions, are down loaded via a video server, the section **does not provide that the video and/or audio portions control the pace of the presentation of the lesson.** Specifically, Linton does not disclose that these video and audio portions **prevent a student from advancing in the lesson until the audio or video portions are completely listened to or viewed.** The section does provide various programs that can be used to view and hear the video and audio portions,

but all of these programs **allow the user to fast forward/skip all or part of the video and audio portions.** In contrast, the present invention prevents a student from advancing, fast forwarding, or skipping portions of the present invention's lessons by requiring **the audio file/video file to play to its completion before a student can advance in the lesson.** Thus, while Linton allows a student to skip or fast forward through its video files and audio files, the present invention does not allow the student to skip its video or audio files, **but rather utilizes the video/audio files to ensure that the student spends the required amount of time on the lesson.**

The Examiner also cites the following language of Linton in support of the assertion that Linton discloses the use of an audio file to control the pace of the presentation of the received lesson:

FIG. 9 is a sample image of a segment screen 910 that includes a video window 912, where video is streamed for the user's review, as well as slide window 914, where text or still images are presented to the user. Server 200 streams program information from its database storage sites to the end users, as shown in block 318. A plurality of still images 914 can be provided with the streaming video portion of the instructional segment as shown in block 320. The still images are displayed in window 914 along side the streaming video, shown in window 912, using timing codes. The user can pause the video window via video controls 916. Video controls 916 also allow the user to replay portions of the video, backtrack, pause, stop, or skip ahead as well as control the volume as needed. The timing of the video is based on the URLs of the slides that are played, which is merely one example of the timing that may be used. Another method to provide timing is to cue the slides to the video, or even to be independent so the teacher or user can select the next slide when ready.

(Linton, Col. 8, lns. 11-29). Nowhere in this section or in any other section does Linton provide that **the use of an audio file can be used to control the pace of the lesson.** Rather, Linton provides that it uses timing codes to control the pace of the display of the still images. (Col. 8, ln. 20). It provides that the timing of the video can be based on the URLs of the slides that are

displayed. (Col. 8, lns. 24-25). Moreover, while Linton does provide for cuing the presentation of the slides to the video, **it does not use the video file to prevent a student from advancing in the lesson**, because it provides video controls that allow the user to **skip ahead**. (Col. 8, lines 22-25). These video controls will allow user to skip the entire lesson if he or she so chooses. In contrast, the present invention utilizes audio or video files to control the pace of the presentation in a manner that **prevents a student from advancing in the lesson until the audio or video file has completed playing**. In this manner, the present invention ensures that a student **does not skip portions of the lesson** and ensures that the student **spends the required amount of time on the lesson**. Thus, Linton has the same problem that the present invention aims to correct, namely, that an instructor that utilizes Linton has no way of ensuring that the students spend the required amount of time on the lesson and do not skip portions of the lesson. ✓

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Linton does not anticipate the present invention because it does not disclose a system or method for online education that utilizes an audio file or video file to **control the pace and duration of the presentation of a lesson**, so that a student will **not be able to advance in the lesson until the audio or video file has completed playing**. Based on the fact that amended independent claims 1, 17, and 22-24 all contain this limitation and that claims 2-4 and 7-16 all are dependent from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably distinguishable from Linton. In view of the above-amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-4, 7-17 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn. ✓

B) Independent Claims 18, 25 And 28 Are Patentably Distinguishable From Linton.

Applicants respectfully submit Linton does not anticipate the present invention because it does not disclose all of the elements of claims 18-19, 21, 25, and 27-29, because independent claims 18, 25 and 28 are patentably distinguishable from Linton.

1. The Present Invention.

Traditional online education systems do not allow for an instructor or other administrative body to ensure that a student has spent the required amount of time on a lesson, **because traditional education systems allow for a student to skip as much of the lesson as he or she desires.** In contrast, the present invention provides a means for certifying that the student has completed the lesson and spent the required amount of time on the lesson. By not allowing the student to advance until an audio or video file plays to completion, the present invention can generate a certificate or completion record **that certifies that the student spent the requisite time on the lesson.** Thus, unlike the prior art, the present invention's completion record can be used for certification purposes required by an education authority (i.e. government agencies or professional organizations that require that its employees or members attend a certain amount of class). Moreover, the present invention generates a lesson completion record and **immediately** transmits the completion record to either the student that just completed the lesson or to an education authority **for certification purposes.** No review is needed before this completion record is transmitted to the student or the education authority.

2. Linton Does Not Disclose All Of The Elements Of Independent Claims 18, 25, and 28.

Linton **does not disclose** a completion record that is **immediately transmitted** to a student or an education authority upon completion of the lesson **in order to certify that the**





**student has spent the required amount of time on the lesson.** The present invention controls the pace of the presentation of the lesson and ensures that a student cannot advance in the lesson until at least one audio file or video file plays to its completion. By controlling the pace of the presentation with the audio file and/or video file, the present invention can **certify that a student spends the required amount of time on the lesson.** As discussed above, Linton does not control the pace of the presentation in a manner **that prevents a student from skipping portions of the lesson.** Thus, just as in the prior art, **Linton cannot certify that a user of its system spent the required amount of time on the lesson.** Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Linton does not disclose the immediate transmission of a completion record that **certifies the student has spent the required amount of time on the lesson.** Further, Applicants respectfully submit, that it is not inherent in Linton to immediately transmit a completion record to a student or an education authority to certify that the student has spent the required amount of time on the lesson, because **Linton does not have the ability to generate such a completion record that can certify this fact.**

Moreover, Applicants have amended claims 18, 25 and 28 to clarify that the present invention utilizes at least one audio file and/or video file to control the pace and duration of the presentation so that a student cannot advance in a lesson until the video file or audio file has completed playing. As discussed above, Linton does not disclose the use of an audio file or a video file to control the pace of the presentation in this manner. Rather, Linton uses timing codes and allows users to skip through the audio and video portions of the lessons at a user's own pace.


Based on these distinguishing elements of independent claims 18, 25 and 28 and the fact that claims 19, 21, 27, and 29 all are dependent from and incorporate all of the limitations of

either claim 1, claim 25 or claim 28, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably distinguishable from Linton and the rejection of claims 18-19, 21, 25, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn.

**VI. The Examiner's Rejection Of Claims 5-6, 20, 26, And 30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Linton In View of Papadopoulos Should Be Withdrawn.**

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not obvious over Linton in view of Papadopoulos because neither Linton nor Papadopoulos teach or suggest all of the claim limitations in claims 5-6, 20, 26 and 30 of the present invention. "To establish prima facie obviousness of the claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP 2143.03 (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981 (C.C.P.A. 1974)). Further, "[i]f an independent claim is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103, then any claim depending therefrom is not obvious." MPEP 2143.03 (citing *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1382, 1385 (C.C.P.A. 1970)). Claims 5-6 each depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 1, as amended. Further, claims 20 and 26 each depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 18, and claim 30 depends from and incorporates all of the limitations of independent claim 28.

As discussed above, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 18 and 28, as amended, in view of Linton should be withdrawn because Linton **does not provide that the video and/or audio portions control the pace of the presentation of the lesson.** Specifically, Linton does not disclose that these video and audio portions **to prevent a student from advancing in the lesson until the audio or video portions are completely listened to or viewed.** Nor does Linton disclose a means for **immediately transmitting a completion record** to either a student via a student system or to an education authority via an education system upon completion of the



lesson **that certifies the student has spent the required amount of time on the lesson.** Thus, because Applicants believe that claims 5-6 each depend from allowable base claim 1, claims 20 and 26 each depend from allowable base claim 18, and claim 30 depends from allowable base claim 28, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection of claims 5-6, 20, 26, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Linton in view of Papadopoulos should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not obvious in view of Papadopoulos. Papadopoulos discloses a virtual training center that allows a student to access training courses from a computer based training program. Once a course is selected and the course title page is opened, the student has control of the course pace using forward and reverse buttons on the system. (Col. 8, lns. 26-36). Papadopoulos further provides that a completion certificate can be provided by the system for the purposes of being presented to the student from an administrator, supervisor or other appropriate personnel. (Col. 8, lns. 59-62).

Applicants respectfully submit that Papadopoulos does not disclose **immediately transmitting** an electronic completion record to either a student on a student system or an education authority on an education authority system. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Papadopoulos does not disclose a completion record that **certifies the student has spent the required amount of time** attending the lesson because Papadopoulos allows the student to skip through the lesson using forward and reverse buttons. Papadopoulos does not disclose **electronically transmitting a completion record to a student or an education authority immediately upon completion of the lesson**, but rather provides for the ability to print a paper completion certificate that **will be given to the student by a person at a later date.** Moreover, Papadopoulos **does not disclose the use of an audio or video file to control the pace and duration of the presentation of the lesson** so that a student cannot advance in the lesson until

the audio or video file plays in its entirety. Instead, Papadopoulos gives **control of the pace of the training course directly to the student** by allowing the student to use **forward and backward buttons to move through the course**.

Accordingly, because claims 5-6 depend from and incorporate all the limitations of claim 1, and because claim 1 specifies that "the presentation of the at least one lesson is controlled by an audio controlling means based on the received audio file so that the at least one student cannot advance in the at least one lesson until the audio file has completed playing," Applicants respectfully submit that neither Linton nor Papadopoulos, alone or in combination, teach all the claim limitations of claims 5-6. Further, because claims 20 and 26 depend from and incorporate all the limitations of claim 18 and claim 18 specifies that the "lesson completion record . . . certifies that the required amount of time was spent on the lesson"; specifies that "the lesson completion record is immediately transmitted to the at least one student system upon the completion of the lesson"; and specifies that "the at least one audio file or at least one video file controls the presentation of the lesson, so that a student cannot advance in the at least one lesson until the audio file or video file has completed playing," Applicants respectfully submit that neither Linton nor Papadopoulos, alone or in combination, teach all the limitations of claim 20 and 26. Similarly, because claim 30 depends from and incorporates all the limitations of claim 28 and claim 28 specifies that the "lesson completion record . . . certifies that the required amount of time was spent on the lesson"; that the present invention "immediately transmit[s] the lesson completion record from the educator provider system to the education authority system upon completion of the lesson"; and that the present invention "control[s] the presentation of the lesson with at least one audio file or at least one video file so that the at least one student cannot advance in the lesson until the at least one audio file or at least one video file has completed

playing," Applicants respectfully submit that neither Linton nor Papadopoulos, alone or in combination, teach all the limitations of claim 30.

Based on these limitations of claims 5-6, 20, 26 and 30 not being taught by Papadopoulos and claims 5-6, 20, 26 and 30 being dependent upon independent claims that are not taught by Linton, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 5-6, 20, 26, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Linton in view of Papadopoulos should be withdrawn.

**VII. The Examiner's Rejection Of Claims 18 And 28 As Being Unpatentable Over Linton In View Of Sonnenfeld Under 35 U.S.C §103(a) Should Be Withdrawn.**

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not obvious over Linton in view of Sonnenfeld because neither Linton nor Sonnenfeld teach or suggest all of the claim limitations in claims 18 and 28, as amended, of the present invention. "To establish prima facie obviousness of the claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP 2143.03 (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981 (C.C.P.A. 1974)).

As discussed above, the Examiner's rejection of claims 18 and 28, as amended, in view of Linton should be withdrawn because Linton does not disclose or teach a method or system for online education that utilizes a means for **immediately transmitting a completion record** to either a student via a student system or to an education authority via an education system upon completion of the lesson. Further, Linton does not disclose or teach the generation of a completion record **that certifies the student has spent the required amount of time on the lesson**. Rather, Linton provides for a means for an end user to skip portions of the lessons and, therefore, cannot even generate a completion record that certifies that the student has spent the required amount of time on the lesson. Further, Linton does not disclose or teach the use of at least one video file and/or at least one audio file to control the presentation of the lesson so that a

**student cannot advance in the lesson until the audio file and/or video file has completed playing.**

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not obvious in view of Sonnenfeld because it does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claims 18 and 28, as amended. Sonnenfeld discloses an automated testing systems that allows for the design, administering and taking of tests through a computer network or other information distribution media. (Col. 1, lns. 6-9; 56-58). Sonnenfeld discloses a conceptual hierarchical model of its testing system and in that description it provides that the automatic testing system gives and grades tests, allows for the computation of how much cumulative time has been spent on the different parts of a test, provides parameters of the minimum and maximum time a person must spend on a section of a test, and provides a test results screen after a person takes a test. (Col. 5, lns. 24-25; 34-35; 48-55; Col. 6, lns. 53-56; Col. 14, lns. 36-46).

Applicants respectfully submit that Sonnenfeld does not disclose or teach **the use of an audio file and/or a video file to control the pace of the presentation of a lesson.** Sonnenfeld ✓ provides parameters that allow a test designer to set a minimum amount of time that a user must spend on a section of a test before it will allow the user to proceed to the next section of the test. (Col. 6, lns. 55-56). This is a normal test taking situation (i.e. the SAT exam) where a student has a set amount of time to complete a section of the exam before it can move on to the next section. The student can finish the questions in any amount time he or she wants but cannot advance to the next section of the test until a certain amount of time passes. In contrast, the present invention does not use a time variable to control the pace of a test but rather uses **an** ★ **audio and/or video file to control the pace of a lesson.** The audio file or video file must **completely play before a student can advance.** In this manner, the present invention ensures

that the student hears and views the desired material to be taught and ensures that the student spends the required amount of time viewing and listening to the lesson. Thus, Sonnenfeld does not disclose or teach an education system that utilizes an audio and/or video file to control the pace of the presentation of the lesson so that a student cannot advance in the lesson until the audio or video file has completed playing.

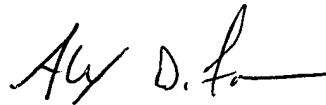
Based on these limitations of claims 18 and 28 not being taught by Sonnenfeld or Linton, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 18 and 28, as amended, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Linton in view of Papadopoulos should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application, is therefore respectfully requested. In the event Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for payment of an additional fee, Applicants conditionally petition therefore, and authorize any deficiency to be charged to deposit account 09-0007.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 6/20/03

Enclosures: Request for Examination Transmittal  
Exhibit A – Replacement Abstract  
Exhibit B – Marked Up Version of Abstract  
Exhibit C – Marked Up Version of the Amended Claims  
Check in the amount of \$375.00  
Return Postcard

cc: Mr. Michael J. Betz



**Exhibit A**

## EXHIBIT B

### MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN THE ABSTRACT

#### Abstract of Disclosure

A method and system for online education[. The system of the present invention] that includes an educator provider system and at least one student system connected via a network means[, such as the Internet, for bidirectional communication therebetween] so that at least one lesson can be transmitted from the provider system to the student system. [The educator provider system is capable of transmitting, and the at least one student system is capable of receiving, at least one lesson for education purposes. In one embodiment, the lesson is interactive] One embodiment of the present invention uses an interactive lesson with at least one audio file that controls [used to control] the pace of the presentation of the lesson [to a student at the at least one student system]. [In another embodiment, the educator provider system also includes] The present invention can further comprise a mechanism for generating a lesson completion record [and/or an electronic certificate of completion] after a student has completed the lesson. The lesson completion record is immediately transmitted upon completion of the lesson to a student and/or an education authority in order to certify that the student has completed the lesson and has spent the requisite minimum time period on that lesson. [The lesson completion record and/or electronic certificate may be transmitted to the at least one student system and/or to an education authority system, indicating and providing proof to the student and/or the education authority, respectively, that the student has completed the lesson. According to one embodiment of the method of the present invention, the pace of the presentation of the lesson to a student is controlled by playing of the at least one audio file at the at least one student system. In another embodiment of the method of the present invention, the

lesson completion record and/or electronic certificate of completion is transmitted by the educator provider system and received by the student system at which the student completed the lesson and/or the education authority that has an interest in completion of the lesson by the student. By the use of the system and method of the present invention, an education authority can be assured that a student attends the online lesson for the requisite minimum time period, and that the student satisfactorily completes the lesson.]

## EXHIBIT C

### MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An online education system, that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on at least one lesson, the system comprising:

an educator provider system for transmission of at least one [interactive] lesson comprising an audio file;

at least one student system capable of receiving the at least one lesson and presenting the at least one lesson to at least one student;

network means for connecting the educator provider system with the at least one student system in bidirectional communication;

such that when the at least one lesson is transmitted over the network means from the educator provider system to the at least one student system, the presentation of the at least one lesson is controlled by an audio controlling means based on the received audio file, so that the at least one student cannot advance in the at least one lesson until the audio file has completed playing.

17. (Twice Amended) An online education system, that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on at least one lesson, the system comprising:

an educator provider system for transmission of at least one [interactive] lesson comprising at least one video file;

at least one student system capable of receiving the at least one lesson and presenting the lesson to at least one student;

network means for connecting the educator provider system with the at least one student system in bidirectional communication; and

a video controlling means operably connected to the network means, such that when the at least one lesson is transmitted over the network means from the educator provider system to the at least one student system, the presentation of the at least one lesson is controlled by the video controlling means based on the received video file, so that the at least one student cannot advance in the at least one lesson until the video file has completed playing.

18. (Twice Amended) A system for online education that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on at least one lesson, the system comprising:

an educator provider system for transmission of at least one lesson, that comprises at least one audio file or at least one video file, and for transmission of a lesson completion record that certifies that the required amount of time was spent on the lesson, wherein the at least one audio file or at least one video file controls the presentation of the lesson, so that the at least one student cannot advance in the at least one lesson until the audio file or video file has completed playing;

at least one student system capable of receiving the at least one lesson and presenting the at least one lesson to at least one student; and

network means connected to the educator provider system and the at least one student system in bidirectional communication;

such that after completion of the transmission of the at least one lesson over the network means from the education provider system to the at least one student system, the lesson completion record is immediately transmitted to the at least one student system upon the completion of the lesson.

22. (Twice Amended) A method of online education of at least one lesson that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on the at least one lesson, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an online education system including:

- (a) an educator provider system for transmission of at least one interactive lesson comprising an audio file;
- (b) at least one student system capable of receiving the at least one lesson and presenting the at least one lesson to at least one student; and
- (c) network means for connecting the educator provider system with the at least one student system in bidirectional communication;

transmitting one of the at least one lessons from the educator provider system to one of the at least one student systems;

receiving and presenting the transmitted lesson at the student system; and

controlling the pace of the presentation of the received lesson with the received audio file, so that the at least one student cannot advance in the received lesson until the at least one received audio file has completed playing.

23. (Twice Amended) A method of online education of at least one lesson that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on the at least one lesson, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an online education system including:

- (a) an educator provider system for transmission of a plurality of presentations that make up a lesson, at least one of the plurality of presentations having at least one audio file associated therewith;

- (b) at least one student system capable of receiving each of the plurality of presentations and presenting each of the plurality of presentations to at least one student; and
- (c) network means for connecting the educator provider system with the at least one student system in bidirectional communication;

transmitting each of the plurality of presentations from the educator provider system to one of the at least one student systems; [and]

receiving and presenting each of the transmitted plurality of presentations at the student system; and [while]\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_controlling the pace of the presentation of each of the transmitted plurality of presentations of the lesson based on the audio file associated with that presentation, so that the at least one student cannot advance in the lesson until the at least one audio file associated with that presentation has completed playing.

24. (Twice Amended) A method of online education of at least one lesson that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on the at least one lesson, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an online education system including:

- (a) an educator provider system for transmission of at least one interactive lesson comprising at least one video file;
- (b) at least one student system capable of receiving the at least one lesson and presenting the lesson to at least one student;
- (c) network means for connecting the educator provider system with the at least one student system in bidirectional communication; and

(d) a video controlling means operably connected to the network means;  
transmitting one of the at least one lessons from the educator provider system to one of the at least one student systems;  
receiving and presenting the transmitted lesson at the student system; and  
controlling the pace of the presentation of the received lesson with the video controlling means based on the at least one video file, so that the at least one student cannot advance in the received lesson until the at least one video file has completed playing.

25. (Twice Amended) A method of online education of at least one lesson that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on the at least one lesson,  
the method comprising the steps of:

providing an online education system including:

- (a) an educator provider system for transmission of at least one lesson and for transmission of a lesson completion record that certifies that the required amount of time was spent on the lesson;
- (b) at least one student system capable of receiving the at least one lesson and presenting the at least one lesson to at least one student; and
- (c) network means connected to the educator provider system and the at least one student system in bidirectional communication;

transmitting one of the at least one lessons from the educator provider system to one of the at least one student systems;

receiving and presenting the transmitted lesson at the student system until the transmitted lesson is completed;



controlling the presentation of the lesson with at least one audio file or at least one video file so that the at least one student cannot advance in the lesson until the at least one audio file or at least one video file has completed playing;

generating the lesson completion record with the educator provider system; and  
immediately transmitting the lesson completion record from the educator provider system to the student system on which the lesson was completed, upon the completion of the lesson.

28. (Twice Amended) A method of online education of at least one lesson that guarantees that at least one student spends a specified amount of time on the at least one lesson, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an online education system including:

- (a) an educator provider system for transmission of at least one lesson and for transmission of a lesson completion record that certifies that the required amount of time was spent on the lesson;
- (b) a student system capable of receiving the at least one lesson and presenting the at least one lesson to a student using the student system;
- (c) an education authority system capable of receipt of the lesson completion record;  
and
- (d) a network means operably connected to the educator provider system, the student system, and the education authority system;

transmitting one of the at least one lessons from the educator provider system to the student system;

receiving and presenting the transmitted lesson at the student system until the transmitted lesson is completed;

controlling the presentation of the lesson with at least one audio file or at least one video file so that the at least one student cannot advance in the lesson until the at least one audio file or at least one video file has completed playing;

generating with the educator provider system the lesson completion record; and

immediately transmitting the lesson completion record from the educator provider system to the education authority system upon the completion of the lesson.